DEC 0 3 2003 =

PATENT 454311-2201.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Belfort et al.

Serial No.

09/641,808

For

GENETIC SYSTEM AND SELF-CLEAVING INTEINS

DERIVED THEREFROM, BIOSEPARATIONS AND PROTEIN PURIFICATION EMPLOYING SAME, AND

METHODS FOR DETERMINING CRITICAL,

GENERALIZABLE AMINO ACID RESIDUES FOR

VARYING INTEIN ACTIVITY

Filed

AUGUST 17, 2000

OCIVEL

EC 1 0 2003

Examiner

Navarro, Albert Mark

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Art Unit

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 WITH REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is filed in response to the August 5, 2003 non-final Office Action, setting a three-month term for reply.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.117(a)(1), applicants hereby request an extension of time of one (1) month in responding to the Office Action of August 5, 2003.

Granting of Applicants' request would serve to extend Applicants' due date from November 5, 2003 to December 5, 2003.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$55.00 to satisfy the fee for a one (1) month extension of time (small entity). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-0320.

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